



## **IDEM's Surface Water Quality Assessment Program**

### **Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for Indiana Surface Water Quality Monitoring Programs**

#### **Program Objective**

The Toxicology and Chemistry Section develops and maintains the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for Indiana Surface Water Quality Monitoring Programs. This QAPP serves as a guide to both Contract and State analytical laboratory staff charged with the analysis of environmental samples (water, sediments, and biological) in order to provide results that will meet the data quality objectives for the individual water quality monitoring project. This QAPP satisfies USEPA requirements for environmental data collection projects that are funded in whole or in part by USEPA grants. Successful collection of precise, accurate, and complete data provides IDEM and USEPA Region 5 with good quality data, which could be used for regulatory decisions and to implement programs to improve and maintain clean waters in the State of Indiana. The QAPP is applicable to all Assessment Branch Water Quality Monitoring programs.

The QAPP provides guidance in several major areas: Project Management; Measurement and Data Acquisition; Project Assessment and Data Oversight; and Environmental Data Validation/Usability.

Project Management Guidance in the QAPP covers the following areas:

- Project Organization and Responsibility
- Project Descriptions
- Individual Program & Project Descriptions and Intended Data Usages
- Quality Assurance Objectives and Criteria for Measurement/Acquisition of Data
- Documentation and Records

Measurement and Data Acquisition covers:

- Sampling Network and Rationale
- Sampling Methods Requirements
- Custody Procedures
- Analytical Procedures
- Quality Control Requirements
- Preventive Maintenance

Project and Data Assessment Oversight covers:

- Assessments and Response Actions
- Field Performance and System Audits
- Laboratory Performance and System Audits
- Quality Assurance Reports to Management
- Corrective Actions

Environmental Data Validation and Usability covers the following areas:

- Reconciliation with Data Quality Objectives
- Data Quality Assessment Levels (1-4) with categories and guidelines
- Data Qualifiers and Flags
- Assessments and Response Actions

## Program Participants

This program provides technical support for the sampling efforts of Biological Studies and Surveys Sections from Water Quality's Assessment Branch, the Permitting Branch (NPDES Program), and the Operations Branch (Data Management Section). Also coordinates with the Indiana Department of Health (ISDH) Environmental Lab and Contract Laboratories for laboratory analysis of environmental samples, data collection, and data review process for quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC).

## Program Description

Media:	Surface Water: rivers, streams and lakes
Study Area:	Statewide
Site Selection Type:	Statewide / Major River Basins
Sampling Sites:	Statewide / Major River Basins
Sampling Frequency:	Varied
Data Collected:	Conduct reviews of water chemistry, bacteriological lab data and reports received from regulated community and contract analytical laboratories.

## Program Products

- *Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for Indiana Surface Water Programs*
- *QA/QC Review Reports*
- *Request for Proposals (RFPs)*
- *Technical Review of mini-QAPPs (Sampling and Analysis Work Plans)*
- *Technical Review of Proposals for Analytical Test Methods*

## Technical Notes

- Inspect Analytical Laboratories for Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) compliance.
- Evaluate analytical contract lab proposals for analysis of environmental samples and make recommendations for selection of contract lab.
- Conduct quality assurance of analytical data generated from analysis of environmental samples (water, sediments and fish tissue samples) and prepare the QA/QC review reports.
- Evaluate and review Toxicology Biomonitoring Reports, TRE Reports, Work Plans and Studies proposed by regulated community, and prepare appropriate review reports.

## Contact Information

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**Report Environmental Emergencies:**  
(888) 233-7745

**Confidential Technical Assistance:**  
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**Pollution Complaint:**  
[www.IN.gov/idem/pollutioncomplaints/](http://www.IN.gov/idem/pollutioncomplaints/)

**Questions and Comments:**  
[www.IN.gov/idem/contact/questions.html](http://www.IN.gov/idem/contact/questions.html)

**For More Information on IDEM's Office of Water Quality...**

**Assessment Branch** (Surface water quality monitoring: rivers and streams, lakes, water quality standards) Shadeland Office, Indianapolis (317) 308-3173

**Compliance Branch** (Compliance and inspections, data and information services, wastewater certification and continuing education) Indiana Government Center North, Indianapolis (317) 233-2545

**Drinking Water Branch** (Public water supply supervision and ground water protection) Shadeland Office, Indianapolis (317) 308-3308

**Permitting Branch** (Facilities Construction & Engineering Support, Industrial & municipal permits, modeling, and wet weather) Indiana Government Center North, Indianapolis (317) 232-8760

**Watershed Planning Branch** (Rules development, wetlands, TMDL, watershed management) Indiana Government Center North, Indianapolis (317) 233-8488